

VanSambeck, Mike

From: Laurie Beth Keller <chrislbkeller@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 5:19 PM
To: VanSambeck, Mike; Sen. Kane, Rob
Subject: Senate Bill 387

As a consumer, I am highly opposed to the labor rate increases. I have watched door after door close in CT in the short 2.5 years we have lived here. Ultimately the cost increase gets passed to the consumer. When I can't afford to shop locally anymore, I shop online with companies in other states that can afford to business more economically. CT business owners are already paying higher taxes and health care costs where appropriate. To increase their salary costs means fewer employees, lower customer service, or ultimately shutting their doors. Even major corporations like UTC struggle to avoid layoffs by doing furloughs as they have for the past 2 years. To increase the cost of their labor force means to increase the likelihood of another layoff which means less cash flow to the rest of the state or worse the state having to pay out more in unemployment benefits.

Increasing labor costs in Connecticut is a lose lose situation. The issue isn't labor costs but the overall cost of living in Connecticut. My husband and I lived in Texas for 7.5 years with no income tax and only property & education tax when added equates to my property tax. They are able to support a vast state's infrastructure on far less that the second smallest state in the nation which makes no sense to me.

Raising minimum wage puts a bandaid on a problem that can't be fixed by paying employees more. Ultimately those costs trickle down and affect our beautiful state negatively.
Please vote no to minimum wage increases.

Laurie Beth Keller
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